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National Library of Medicine  
Statement of Collecting Scope

The Library acquires all publications in all editions on the practice of medicine and surgery and in the following disciplines closely related sciences: human anatomy and histology, human physiology, pharmacology, dentistry, psychiatry, nursing, epidemiology, experimental medicine and surgery, medical biography, and medical bibliography. In these areas the Library takes not only the standard explanations written for the scientist and research worker, but also works for the layman and by those who hold to unconventional beliefs.

In general biology, psychology, sanitary engineering, zoology, natural history, veterinary medicine, chemistry, and physics, the Library maintains only reference collections consisting of a few comprehensive works in each such subject. Most of these would be in English, although some outstanding works in the more familiar foreign languages are also admitted. Any work in microbiology that relates the subject to human health is admissible.

The Library acquires publications regardless of format or method of preparation. Besides printed books it collects pamphlets, loose-leaf systems, periodicals, institutional and government reports, whether printed, photolithed, or mimeographed. It does not acquire reprints of books or of articles from medical journals. It acquires translations only into English or from a very unfamiliar to a familiar language (e.g., Turkish into French). Otherwise the Library acquires publications in all languages regardless of place or date of publication.